

1. "For equitable and sustainable local economic development and decentralised governance; ruralisation, an alternative development paradigm can be adopted which entails creation of self-sufficient villages and urban republics with attached common pool resources". Discuss
(12.5 Marks)

Answer:

The top down approach adopted by policy makers resulted in the development of only few urban areas compared to size of the country. Even the model is not sustainable and inclusive. This has led to dramatic upheavals in the socio-economic and political fabric of India, most adversely affecting indigenous and rural communities which have been displaced, deprived of their self-sufficient ways and ultimately marginalised. Need of the hour is to adopt the bottom down approach and enable the village to participate in development model.

Ruralisation can be an alternative development paradigm can be a way out for a sustainable and inclusive society. This can be achieved by the following.

- Rural-Urban migration can be reduced by promoting employment generation in villages this can be done if state support Panchayati raj institutions to engage in small-scale localised enterprises including both agro and industrial-based activities, and in organic agriculture (that would reduce fertiliser, and hence fossil fuel, use). Ultimately, this would enhance the quality and quantum of rural employment.
- Energy dependence on fossil fuels can also be reduced drastically by shifting to renewable energy sources (especially solar and wind power). While solar cookers, lights and heaters could service the needs of every household (instilling self-sufficiency in consumption), a local energy plant that mixes solar, wind, and biogas energy sources could supply electricity for communal requirements.
- Rainwater harvesting, and other similar strategies could go a long way in conserving water, while the construction of houses and roads through the use of locally available materials rather than cement, tar and other fossil fuel-based materials would also aid in reducing costs as well as carbon footprints considerably.
- Developing urban republic i.e. small town and pen-urban areas would not only entail a spill over effect on the nearby village in term of economic activity, employment generation, and social infrastructure but also reduces pressure in urban areas.

Institutionalising village self-republics in India, whose bedrocks would be self-sufficiency and pastoralism would ensure that all people would have the potential, through the gram sabhas, to govern themselves. With gram sabhas in full control of funds, they would be able to deliver essential services and guarantee the basic necessities of life for every citizen in their respective jurisdictions. This would radically reconfigure the scale of development, and limit the engagement which village republics have with each other to socio cultural, and in rare instances, economic exchanges. It is only this that will make development both equitable and ethical while institutionalising a social contract that is non-exploitative and ecologically sustainable.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

(12.5 Marks)

1. India's industrial policy has been ineffective in creation of job to reap its demographic dividend. More than any other country, India needs an effective industrial policy to stimulate domestic job creation. Suggest the features of such policy and sectors will need to be nurtured.
2. Payment banks are seen as tool for last mile connectivity along with increasing the financial inclusion, however, three entities out of eleven has backed out even after getting the licences. Discuss the factors which could be roadblock in development of payment banks.